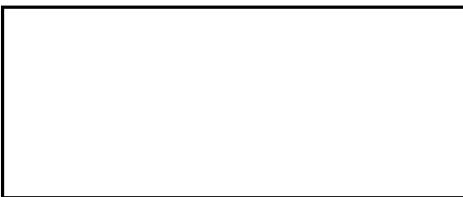


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11 May 1963

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

CONTENTS

1. Haiti: Foreign minister airs complaints against US. (Page 1)
2. Laos: Souvanna insisting on Council of Ministers' meeting despite Pathet Lao objections. (Page 2)
3. South Vietnam: Buddhists give vent to antigovernment feeling. (Page 3)
4. (Redacted)
5. Indonesia: Riots reported in West and Central Java. (Page 5)
6. Notes: USSR; Argentina; Peru. (Page 6)

25X1

25X1

Approved For Release 2003/04/17 : CIA-RDP79T00975A007000150001-7

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

11 May 1963

DAILY BRIEF

*Haiti: (The Duvalier regime is hewing to the line that the US is responsible for the tension between Haiti and the Dominican Republic, as well as for unrest within Haiti.)

(Haitian Foreign Minister Chalmers told US Ambassador Stevenson in New York on 9 May that his government had "reservations" about further OAS investigations in Haiti because US public opinion already was heavily in favor of OAS sanctions against Duvalier. Chalmers complained that Haiti deserved better treatment from the US in view of its past support of US policy objectives on Cuba and other matters.)

(Chalmers also asserted that all political refugees in foreign embassies in Haiti would be released over the next two weeks. On 10 May, however, Duvalier informed the OAS that seven Haitian military officers who had taken asylum in the Dominican Embassy were enemies of the state and would not be allowed to leave the country.)

(With Duvalier's legal term of office expiring on 15 May, reports of stepped-up plotting by anti-Duvalier Haitians, at home and abroad, continue to come in. There are also additional tenuous indications of restlessness and dissension within the Duvalier regime itself.

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Laos: Souvanna is insisting on a Council of Ministers' meeting in Luang Prabang despite Pathet Lao objections.

In a communique of 10 May, Souvanna pointed out that as premier he had the authority to ask for such a meeting and that King Savang had agreed to convene one. He reiterated that the meeting would enable the neutralists and the Pathet Lao to settle their difficulties and avoid war.

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(Souvanna apparently is also planning to make a critical statement against the Pathet Lao and dissident neutralist Colonel Deuane when the National Assembly convenes today in Vientiane. The Communists claim that the assembly is an illegal body.)

Hanoi radio on 9 May broadcast Souphanouvong's letter of 5 May to the Geneva co-chairmen requesting convening of another 14-nation conference on Laos if Pathet Lao proposals for a local solution are not carried out.

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DAILY BRIEF

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South Vietnam: An outburst of antigovernment sentiment among Buddhists in the major northern city of Hué on 8 May could have serious repercussions.

Buddhists comprise about 80 percent of the population, but there has previously been little manifestation of their resentment against the Catholic orientation of Diem's government. The trouble in Hué apparently arose over a government order--later rescinded--which would have prevented the display of Buddhist flags during the celebration of Buddha's birthday.

A Buddhist spokesman aroused crowds by charging the government with suppressing religious freedom, and some demonstrators carried anti-Diem and anti-Catholic banners. The efforts of police, Civil Guardsmen, and army troops to disperse a crowd of about 3,000 at the radio station resulted in the death of at least seven persons.

Further incidents could develop as a result of the call by Buddhist leaders for sympathy demonstrations in other provinces and of heightened security measures taken by the government in Hué.

(Some Buddhist circles and other antigovernment nationalists reportedly plan to publicize photographs taken during the disturbance, particularly in other Buddhist countries.)

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11 May 63

DAILY BRIEF

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*Indonesia: Serious riots, apparently directed mainly against local Chinese merchants, reportedly broke out yesterday in Bandung and three other major cities of West and Central Java.

Fragmentary reports available thus far do not indicate the immediate cause or full extent of the violence. Army troops have been called in to restore order.

The rioting may have been set off by popular reaction to rising prices combined with chronic antipathy toward the Chinese who largely control the local economy.

Another possibility is Communist inspiration. Communists are believed to have been responsible for a large student demonstration in Bandung on 20 March against the rising cost of living.

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NOTES

USSR: The regime has failed thus far to follow through with the repressive measures which Soviet intellectuals have been anticipating and which were implied in Khrushchev's speech in March. Recent speeches by prominent writers hint support for the young liberals, and three of the four writers confined in insane asylums last year reportedly were released recently. The resulting milder cultural climate raises a question as to what measures will be adopted to obtain conformity at the party central committee plenum scheduled for 28 May.

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Argentina:

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[redacted] there is a growing feeling in the army that it will be forced to take over the government if the two major Radical parties do not join forces to offset the Peronists' strong vote-getting potential in the July elections. Some Radical leaders have been making an effort to bring the two parties together, but so far have not met with much success.

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[redacted]
*Peru: (The Movement of the Revolutionary Left (MIR) may be planning to launch guerrilla activities in Peru in order to force the postponement of the 9 June presidential elections. The MIR's strategy reportedly is based on the assumption that it will reap many political advantages from the internal dissension that a postponement of the elections would generate.)

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